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Army ROTC at University may have women cadets beginning this Fall

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ARMY ROTC AT UNIVERSITY
MAY HAVE WOMEN CADETS
BEGINNING THIS FALL

MISSOULA--

University of Montana coeds may apply for admission into the Army Reserve Officers Training Corps beginning this fall under the test program entitled "Women in ROTC," Col. Julien H. LePage, chairman of the UM Department of Military Science, has announced. Women accepted for the AROTC program at UM will attend regular AROTC classes and will be eligible to apply for scholarships under the program.

"The only restriction the women in the program will have is that they will not be able to participate in field combat training or training beyond the normal physical strength of women," LePage said.

The move to allow women into AROTC programs throughout the country was okayed by the Department of the Army recently. A 1973-74 academic year quota of 980 female cadets has been set for Region Four, which includes Missoula.

LePage said he does not expect more than about five women students at UM to enroll in the program this fall.

Commenting on the overall outlook for women who become involved directly in military life, LePage said:

"The role of women in the military is expanding, and with it the need for an influx of young leaders who have the broad educational base that is provided by universities such as UM."

Women have been included in the Air Force ROTC program at UM since the fall of 1971. However, this fall will be the first time that women will be allowed to participate in the last two years of the AFROTC professional officers' training program.

Col. Edward G. Sperry, chairman of UM Aerospace Studies (AFROTC), said he hopes that two UM women students will join the professional officers' training classes this fall. They would be the first women at UM to receive commissions if they complete the program.

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